SPECIAL AFTERNOON EDITION.

The Hongkong Telegraph

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WEATHER FORECAST. FINE. Barometer 30.18.

December 24 1915, Temperature 6 a.m. 57 2 p.m. 65 Humidity 65 43

December 24 1914, Temperature 6 a.m. 59 2 p.m. 61 Humidity 93 88

3106 日十二月一十年卯乙 SUNDAY, DECEMBER 26, 1915. 日拜禮 號伍廿月二十英港香 SINGLE COPY 10 CENTS. $36 PER ANNUM

TO-DAY'S LATEST WAR TELEGRAMS.

ITALIANS SINK AN ENEMY SUBMARINE.

SURPRISE DISCOVERY OF SUNKEN GERMAN SUBMARINE IN THE BALTIC.

The Probable Invasion of Greek Macedonia. Military Authorities Consider it Unsafe.

THE TOTAL BRITISH CASUALTIES.

[Reuter's Service to The "Telegraph."]

GREECE AND THE BALKANS.

GERMANY'S UNFAVOURABLE REPLY.

December 23, 7.15 p.m.

Reuter's correspondent at Athens says that Germany has replied unfavourably to a request from Greece to prevent the Bulgarians crossing the frontier. There are further reports of Bulgarian and German concentrations.

King Constantine is convalescent and has resumed holding audiences, though he is much affected by the difficulties of the situation.

Meanwhile the Allies dis-embarkations continue.

GREEK PUBLIC UNEASY.

December 24, 1.40 a.m.

Reuter's correspondent at Athens states that the Greek public are most uneasy regarding the possibility of an extension of hostilities in Greek Macedonia, particularly regarding the composition of the invading forces. The Greek military authorities, however, consider that imminent invasion is improbable in view of the fact that the Nish—Uskub railway is inadequate to transport supplies. They consider it likewise unsafe, because the Austro—Germans are not sufficiently strong to hold it against a hostile Serbian population.

AUSTRALIAN WHEAT.

SOLD TO BRITISH AND FRENCH GOVERNMENTS.

December 23, 7.15 p.m.

According to news received from Melbourne the Hon. Thomas Hughes announced that two hundred thousand tons of wheat has been sold to the British and French Governments.

LORD FISHER.

December 23, 7.15 p.m.

Lord Fisher is returning to London, he having an enthusiastic farewell.

SIR B. BORDEN AND THE WAR.

CANADIAN AND AMERICAN FRIENDSHIP.

December 24 2.05 a.m.

According to a message from New York the Canadian Premier, Sir Robert Borden, speaking at a meeting of the Pilgrims Society, said that he was convinced that the war would accomplish an even closer unity of Empire. The Mother country and the Dominions had never before been so completely united in ideals, inspiration and efforts. He said: "I visited many hospitals where men from all parts of the Empire were brought into close contact, and each were learning better to realise the idea of Empire. All were determined to do their duty to the end."

Mr. J. H. Choate, The ex American Ambassador in London, emphasised the Canadian-American friendship, and the need of America preparing for war. He added: "There is no telling how soon we may be involved in this war, and it is our duty to render whatever aid we can to our neighbour when the time does come, if ever."

"FORD ARK."

MR. FORD WILL REJOIN EXPEDITION.

December 24, 6.00 a.m.

Reuter's correspondent at Copenhagen states that Mr. Ford has not returned to America, but has merely retired to a sanitorium. He rejoins the expedition when his health is re-established.

THE RUSSIANS.

M. SAZONOFF'S STRONG SPEECH.

December 24, 6.00 a.m.

According to Reuter's correspondent at Petrograd, M. Sazonoff in a strong speech to the Budget Committee in the Duma, said that the relations with Greece were now clear, and in consequence there had been the fortification of Salonica. The occupation of Hamadan Kum had enabled them to "scotch" the German intrigues in Persia. Russia should in future adopt a firm attitude towards Persia.

He emphatically denied the senseless peace rumours, and said that Russia was determined to conduct the war to a victorious end.

The Committee passed a resolution emphasising the necessity of devoting closer attention to the Persian front in view of the greater importance of the Asiatic theatre, resulting from events in the Balkans, and also urging on M. Sazonoff that besides military operations the Government should take direct measures to consolidate Russian influence in Persia.

TO-DAY'S LATEST WAR TELEGRAMS.

TOTAL BRITISH CASUALTIES.

MR. ASQUITH'S ANNOUNCEMENT.

December 24, 2.35 p.m.

Mr. Asquith announces that the total British casualties up to December 9 in France has been 371,517, of which number there had been killed 4,829 officers, and 77,473 men. There were missing 1,699 officers and 52,685 men. In the other theatres, except the Dardanelles, the casualties had been 24,019 of which 871 officers and 10,953 men were killed. The grand total in all theatres were:—Killed, 119, 923; wounded, 358, 758; and missing 60, 546.

GERMANY APOLOGISES

TO SWEDEN.

December 24, 1.40 p.m.

Reuter's correspondent at Stockholm says that Germany has apologised for the seizure of the Swedish steamer Argo in Swedish waters.

THE ALLIES IN THE WEST.

NOTHING TO REPORT.

December 24, 4.45 p.m.

Reuter's correspondent at Paris says that in the communique there is nothing to report.

THE FIGHTING IN THE BALKANS.

THE RUSSIAN LANDING AT VARNA.

December 24, 6.20 p.m.

Later news makes it clear that the rumours of the Russian landing at Varna are baseless.

LINER FREIGHTS.

SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE.

December 24, 6.20 p.m.

The Times learns that liner freights from the United Kingdom to all Indian ports is to be raised substantially early in the new year.

THE FIGHTING IN THE BALKANS.

THE DEFENCE OF THE BULGARIAN COAST.

December 24, 6.20 p.m.

It is announced that two German submarines have been sent by rail to Rustchuk and thence to Varna for the defence of the Bulgarian coast.

THE ITALIANS.

SINK AN ENEMY SUBMARINE.

December 24, 6.20 p.m.

A Rome telegram states that an Italian destroyer has rammed and sunk an enemy submarine in the Adriatic, also a large Austrian ship laden with arms, doubtless for the Albanians.

NEW FIVE PER CENT. LOAN.

December 24, 6.20 p.m.

According to Reuter's correspondent at Rome the Italian Government has announced a National Five Per Cent. Loan, redeemable in twenty-five years at 97½.

A SURPRISING DISCOVERY.

GERMAN SUBMARINE TORPEDOED IN BALTIC.

December 24, 6.20 p.m.

Divers searching a wreck off the Danish coast in the Baltic, were surprised to discover the remains of a German submarine lying at the bottom, evidently torpedoed.

THE ALLIES IN THE WEST.

BRITISH ARTILLERY ACTIVE.

December 25, 5.45 p.m.

Reuter's correspondent at Paris says that in the communique there is nothing of importance to report.

The British report artillery activity at Ypres yesterday.

PERSIAN AFFAIRS.

OVERWHELMING RUSSIAN SUCCESS.

December 25, 5.45 p.m.

The Russians have engaged 1,200 Persian rebels and gendarmes near Teheran and achieved an overwhelming success. They killed 140 and captured 70 rebels. The Russians only had an officer and one Cossack killed and four Cossacks wounded.

THE FORD "ARK".

MR. FORD SAILS FOR AMERICA.

December 24, 6.05 p.m.

Reuter's correspondent at Bergen says that Mr. Ford has sailed to America, and has given a cheque for a million kronen to finance the expedition. The expedition will in future be under a committee of five. It is believed that Mr. Ford recognised that the scheme at present was hopeless when he found that the official doors were closed.

TO-DAY'S LATEST WAR TELEGRAMS

LOYAL AUSTRALIA.

ANTI-CONSCRIPTION MEETING BROKEN UP.

December 24, 6.05 p.m.

Reuter's correspondent at Melbourne states that a crowd broke up an anti-conscription meeting at Richmond. There were the most lively proceedings, the audience singing "Australia will be there." The Commonwealth Government appeals to the churches to hold a day of special prayer on January 2 for the Divine Guidance of Britain and her Allies.

THE ALLIES IN THE WEST.

MORE FRENCH SUCCESSES.

December 25, 3.55 a.m.

Reuter's correspondent at Paris says that there has been a lively artillery duel in Belgium where the Germans infantry, concentrated in the communication trenches at Lombaertzyde, were dispersed. The French artillery has likewise been active further south, demolishing German works.

The Germans, after a violent bombardment launched an attack on the whole new French line between the summit of the Hartmannsweilerkopf and Wattwiller, but everywhere they were repulsed.

THE DARDANELLES.

December 25, 3.55 a.m.

A message from Reuter's Paris correspondent says that in the fighting in the Dardanelles the enemy has not hitherto attempted to cross the Greek frontier.

THE FRENCH LOAN.

A SPLENDID SUCCESS.

December 25, 3.55 a.m.

Reuter's correspondent at Paris says that M. Ribot, speaking in the Chamber said that the results of the new loan were splendid. The subscriptions amounted to five hundred and eighty millions sterling, including twenty-four millions from London. A feature of the loan was the vast number of small subscribers. M. Ribot emphasised that France was entering the market at the moment when the enemy was already showing signs of weariness.

EXPORT RESTRICTIONS.

THE CASE OF SWITZERLAND.

December 25, 6.15 a.m.

The *Gazette* publishes a long list of articles, the exportation of which to Switzerland is prohibited except through the Societe de Surveillance Economique, an organisation similar to the Dutch Overseas Trust.

ATTEMPTED ENEMY TRADING.

A BRADFORD MERCHANT'S OFFENCE.

December 25, 6.15 a.m.

A Bradford stuff merchant has been fined £250, or three months' imprisonment, for attempting to trade with a German firm in Bangkok through an agent in Switzerland.

GERMAN NEWSPAPER SUPPRESSED.

December 25, 6.15 a.m.

According to Reuter's correspondent at Amsterdam, a Berlin message says the further publication of the *Zukunft* has been forbidden.

INDIAN AMBULANCE CORPS.

ANOTHER COMPANY FOR OVERSEAS SERVICE.

December 24, 2.40 p.m.

A Johannesburg message states that the Imperial Government has requested the formation of a second Company of the Indian Ambulance Corps for service Overseas. Recruits are now being enrolled. The first contingent of Indians left Durban for Europe on the 17th. instant.

THE POPE AND PEACE.

HIS HOLINESS' HOPES.

December 24, 2.40 p.m.

Reuter's correspondent at Rome says that Cardinal Vannutelli headed the Cardinals conveying Christmas greetings to the Pope, and said that His Holiness, who was the Vicar of the King of Peace, was the most fitting to assist in restoring peace, right and justice. The Pope, in replying, regretted that the war had spoiled the traditional rejoicings and hoped, with the assistance of the Almighty, and the prayers of the Faithful, that peace would soon reign.

FROM FRENCH SOURCES.

(*Havas Telegram.*)

December 23.

Petrograd:—We progressed in the region of Riga driving the enemy back from the heights of Zkionsrat (?) (in Galicia) taking 100 prisoners, ammunition and arms.

Rome:—Artillery actions prevailed on several sectors. We brought down an enemy aircraft.

December 24.

Zurich:—Wolff's agency has announced that the Kaiser has abandoned his idea of travelling on the Eastern front, owing to an inflammation of the throat, which is alarming Berlin.

Petrograd:—In Persia we have occupied Asadabad Pass.

THE KING'S CHRISTMAS GREETINGS.

THE GOAL DRAWING NEARER.

His Majesty the King has sent a Christmas greeting to all the men serving in the Forces at the present time, Major-General F. Ventris, Commanding the Troops in China, having received the following:—

"Another Christmas finds all the resources of the Empire still engaged in war, and I desire to convey on my behalf, and on behalf of the Queen, a heartfelt Christmas greeting and our good wishes for the New Year to all who, on sea and land, are upholding the honour of the British name.

In the officers and men of my Navy on whom the security of the Empire depends I repose, in common with all my subjects, a trust that is absolute.

On the officers and men of my Armies, whether now in France, in the East, or in other fields, I rely with an equal faith, confident that their devotion, their valour, and their self sacrifice will, under God's guidance, lead to victory and an honourable peace.

There are many of their comrades now alas in hospital and to these brave men also I desire, with the Queen, to express our deep gratitude and our earnest prayers for their recovery.

Officers and men of the Navy and of the Army, another year is drawing to a close, as it began, in toil, bloodshed and suffering, but I rejoice to know the goal to which you are striving draws nearer into sight.

May God bless you and all your undertakings."

TELEGRAMS.

(Reuter's Service To The "Telegraph.")

MADAME SARAH BERNHARDT.

Received December 25.

It appears that the report that Madame Sarah Bernhardt is dangerously ill was "greatly exaggerated." Madame Bernhardt is now perfectly well.

MR. WEDGWOOD GOES TO EAST AFRICA.

Received December 25.

Mr. Josiah Wedgwood, M.P., has sailed for East Africa.

PARLIAMENT ADJOURNS.

Received December 25.

Parliament adjourned till the 4th January.

ROYAL FAMILY AT SANDRINGHAM.

Received December 25.

His Majesty the King and the members of the Royal Family have gone to Sandringham for Christmas.

DUTCH WAR CREDIT.

Received December 25.

According to Reuter's correspondent at the Hague, the second Chamber has voted an extraordinary War Credit of Fl. 50,000,000.

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